

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 445

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Agriculture: Mrs. Schmidt to rank after Mr. Fortenberry.

Committee on Government Reform: Mrs. Schmidt to rank after Ms. Foxx.

Committee on Homeland Security: Mr. King of New York, Chairman; Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida to rank after Mr. Dent.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mrs. Schmidt to rank after Mr. Boustany.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN TO THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 237) expressing the sense of Congress welcoming President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States on September 20, 2005, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 237

Whereas for more than 50 years an iron-clad relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan which has been of enormous economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both nations;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundations for peace, prosperity, and progress;

Whereas Taiwan has demonstrated its unequivocal support for human rights and a commitment to the democratic ideals of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, rule of law, and free and fair elections routinely held in a multiparty system;

Whereas the upcoming September 20, 2005, visit to the United States of Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian is another significant step in broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas on September 20, 2005, Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian will be presented the Human Rights Award by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus for his efforts in promoting tolerance, democracy, and human rights;

Whereas Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian will bring a strong message from the Taiwanese people that Taiwan will cooperate and support the United States campaign

against international terrorism and efforts to rebuild and bring democracy and stability to Afghanistan and Iraq; and

Whereas the Government of Taiwan has donated \$2 million to the Government of the United States to help with relief efforts in the devastated areas of the Gulf Coast of the United States stricken by Hurricane Katrina; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) offers its warmest welcome to President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan upon his visit to the United States on September 20, 2005;

(2) asks President Chen Shui-bian to communicate to the people of Taiwan the support of Congress and of the American people;

(3) recognizes that the visit of President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States is a significant step toward broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan;

(4) recognizes the commitment and efforts of President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to maintain the peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait;

(5) congratulates President Chen Shui-bian on his receiving the Human Rights Award from the Congressional Human Rights Caucus; and

(6) thanks President Chen Shui-bian and the government and people of Taiwan for their contribution to relief efforts in the devastated areas of the Gulf Coast of the United States stricken by Hurricane Katrina.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. CHABOT:

In the first clause of the preamble, strike "iron-clad relationship" and insert "enduring friendship".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 15, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON,
Member of Congress.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3763

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3763.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

REPORT CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-56)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the report containing the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission pursuant to sections 2903 and 2914 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510, 104 Stat. 1810, as amended. That report includes changes referenced in errata sheets submitted to me by the Commission, including the enclosed errata sheets dated September 8, September 9, September 12, and September 13, 2005.

I note that I am in receipt of a letter from Chairman Principi, dated September 8, 2005, regarding a district court injunction then in effect relating to the Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Chairman Principi's letter states that, as a result of that injunction, "you should consider the portion of Recommendation 85 . . . that recommends realignment of the Connecticut 103rd Fighter Wing withdrawn from the Commission's report." The Chairman's letter further states that "[i]f the court's injunction is later vacated, reversed, stayed, or otherwise withdrawn, it is the intent of the Commission that the entirety of the recommendation be a part of the Commission's report." On September 9, 2005, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit granted a stay of the district court's injunction. Because the injunction is no longer in effect, Recommendation 85 in its entirety is part of the Commission's report.

I certify that I approve all the recommendations contained in the Commission's report.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 15, 2005.

KATRINA RELIEF

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing the President address the Nation this evening on our plan to be certain that America's Gulf Coast States continue to receive the assistance they need to rebuild.

I want him to know that Tennessee is doing our part to help those that are affected by Katrina. The past few days I have talked about some of the good work our west and middle Tennessee organizations have done to assist the recovery effort.

Today I want to thank our Clarksville and Montgomery County, Tennessee, volunteers and organizations, especially those providing food, like Urban Ministries, Loaves & Fishes, and the Department of Human Resources. The Hilldale Church of Christ and the Cumberland Baptists Association are providing shelter. The Salvation Army Thrift Store and First Call For Help have provided clothing.

□ 1745

We have seen Gateway Health System and our County Health Department assist with medical care.

Austin Peay State University has opened their doors, and they are receiving displaced students.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the hurricane, we have seen ordinary Americans do extraordinary things. I want to thank our Tennessee communities for pitching in.

GAZA PULLOUT

(Mr. McHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has shown bold leadership. Prime Minister Sharon took a significant risk to both his political future and personal safety to organize the Israeli pullout of Gaza.

Thousands of Israelis were moved from their homes in Gaza to give peace a chance. With no guarantees from the Palestinians, the Israelis moved all that was important to them, moved their home, their goods, including the remains of their families and friends.

Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority must show leadership and root out radical terrorist groups like Hamas. Israel took the first step in the hope of developing a lasting peace with the Palestinians. Abbas must confront violence against Israelis, eliminate the terrorist infrastructure, disarm and arrest those involved in terrorist plots and institute democratic reforms in all Palestinian-controlled areas.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Sharon showed bold leadership and courage. Now the Palestinians must act.

AIRLINE EMPLOYEES

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, two cornerstones of the airline industry filed for bankruptcy. The headlines this morning talk about Delta and Northwest and the customers, but what should be on the front page are headlines about the employees. The employees are the ones who will be impacted the most. Delta and Northwest combined have over 90,000 employees, and that number does not include the retirees who will also have to deal with this issue.

People who have worked a lifetime to retire comfortably are now in jeopardy of having their promised benefits cut by 75 percent. Can you imagine that, 75 percent?

Delta and Northwest Airlines are the latest casualties in a competitive airline industry, and these recent Chapter 11 filings are a symptom of a greater problem and must serve as a wake-up call for all of us. Employees must have the flexibility to choose how they wish to secure their retirements if legacy carriers are to remain in the industry. This means IRAs and 401(k)s, the power to secure your retirement should be in your own hands.

Mr. Speaker, the news today affects all of us, and I ask my colleagues to support comprehensive airline pension reform so these employees retain a more secure future.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE MARC WESTBROOK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina has lost a judicial statesman with the death of Judge Marc Westbrook. In dedicating the Lexington County Courthouse main courtroom in his honor, Marc was fondly recognized as a loving father, devoted husband, dedicated son, conscientious legislator and brilliant judge. These accolades are truer today than ever before.

Judge Westbrook is a role model and mentor of integrity and competence for young lawyers who served as clerks, such as my son Alan and my Chief of Staff Eric Dell. In addition to his passing, we give tribute to his law clerk Randall Davis, Junior, who also sadly was killed in yesterday's traffic accident.

The Wilson family, especially our oldest son Alan, who considered the judge an uncle, extends its deepest sympathies to his wife, Linda; his sons, Thad and Richard; his father, Herb; his sister, Dottie; his beloved granddaughter, Abby; and his additional family members. We also express our deepest sympathies to the Davis family and his father Randy and sister Julie.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky) laid before the House the following Communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 15, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 20, 2005.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will proceed to recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to possible further legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE COMING CATEGORY 5 FINANCIAL HURRICANE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of abject poverty in New Orleans revealed on national TV by Katrina's destruction were real eye-openers for many. These scenes prompted two emotional reactions. One side claimed Katrina proved there was not enough government welfare and its distribution was based on race. The other side claims we need to pump billions of new dollars into the very agency that failed, FEMA, while giving it extraordinary new police powers. Both sides support more authoritarianism, more centralization, and even the imposition of martial law in times of natural disasters.

There is no hint that we will resort to reason now that the failed welfare policies of the past 60 years have been laid bare. Certainly no one has connected the tragedy of poverty in New Orleans to the flawed monetary system that has significantly contributed to the impoverishment of a huge segment of American society.

Congress reacted to Katrina in the expected irresponsible manner. It immediately appropriated over \$60 billion with little planning or debate. Taxes